

## BENEFITS OF THE GRANT

*Preventing ground water contamination before it happens through proactive activities like plugging old abandoned well casings is far more cost effective than trying to clean up an aquifer after it has been contaminated. Communities with protected drinking water supplies may also realize water quality monitoring cost savings under state and federal drinking water monitoring waiver programs. Plugging abandoned wells enhances public health protection and provides a direct pollution prevention benefit.*



For more information, please contact:

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 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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Department of Environmental Quality  
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## Abandoned Well Management Grant Program



Clean Water Fund



Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality

WATER  
DIVISION

## WHAT IS CMI?



The Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) is a \$675 million general obligation bond approved by Michigan voters on November 3, 1998.

Ninety million dollars from the bond established the Clean Water Fund. Of the \$90 million, approximately \$1.2 million will be available annually for the Abandoned Well Management (AWM) Grant Program.

The goal of the CMI is to protect health and the environment. The AWM Grant Program makes cost sharing funding available to eligible communities to locate and plug abandoned wells inside of Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs).

Unplugged abandoned wells can act as conduits between near-surface contaminants and drinking water aquifers. The AWM grants funded under the CMI are intended to foster voluntary well plugging activities that protect community public drinking water supplies and the ground water aquifers they depend on as their source.

## Grant Funding

The CMI Grant Program pays for locating and plugging abandoned wells inside the community public water supply of WHPAs. The grant provides 75 percent state cost share funding. The remaining 25 percent of project costs is to be covered by "local" matching funds provided by the applicant. Funding will be reimbursed to the applicant on a quarterly basis. The fundable components of the program are:

- Identification of owners of property
- Conducting search activities
- Prioritizing well plugging in contaminated areas
- Contracting with well drillers to plug wells
- Conducting field activities to verify plugging
- Documenting abandoned well locations and plugging expenses

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be a municipality, township, village, city, or a nonprofit entity that operates a public drinking water supply that utilizes ground water as its source. In addition, applicants must have completed the delineation of their WHPA or have had their WHPA designated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), based on tritium testing results.

A list of grant-eligible water utilities that have completed their delineation or have "low tritium" designation is available on the DEQ, Wellhead Protection Unit website at: [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq).

## Application Process

Each applicant must submit an AWM Grant Program proposal. A proposal preparation package can be provided to each eligible water utility by the DEQ. The DEQ will select the proposals to be funded based on their adherence to grant program administrative rules, cost effectiveness, and the availability of funds.

Proposals will be accepted until a prescribed date to be announced annually by the DEQ. Within 60 days from the close of the application period, the DEQ will notify selected and unsuccessful applicants of their application status. The AWM Grant Program contracts will be sent to successful applicants. All contract work must be completed within 2 years from the date of the agreement.

